

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated September 9, 2004 in which the Examiner rejected claims 2-3, 8-11, 14-15, 17-21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), rejected claims 12-13, 16 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103, stated that claims 1 and 22 are allowed and objected to claims 4 and 26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As indicated above, objected to claim 4 has been incorporated into claims 2 and 21. In addition, the dependencies of claims 5 and 6 have been amended based upon the incorporation of claim 4. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 2-3, 8-11, 14-15, 17-21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), withdraws the rejection to claims 12-13, 16 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103 and withdraws the objection to claim 26.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner find that the application is not now in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner enters this Amendment for purposes of appeal.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time.

The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: November 2, 2004

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